

5418/USSN 09/744,946
Group Art Unit 1723

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therein and to constitute a tubular cylinder inside said cylindrical case in a manner to partition an outer radial part from an inner radial part, wherein fluid is able to move across the filter element in a substantially centripetal direction, wherein the filter element is devoid of a central core, and wherein the inner winding turns present means of preventing the inner winding turns from unraveling inward.

R E M A R K S

Applicants have considered the outstanding official action. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are directed to patentable subject matter as set forth below.

Responsive to the Examiner's request, applicants are formally submitting herewith copies of the following patent documents which were cited and described in the specification of the captioned application as originally filed: U.S. Patent No. 4,487,378 (equivalent to French Patent Document 2,554,799) and French Patent Document 2,624,397. These documents are set forth together with the patentee/applicant and the issue or publication date thereof in the attached PTO Form 1449. It is noted that PCT Published Application No. WO 96/05133 has been cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, while cited in applicants' specification, such is not submitted herewith.

The disclosure is objected to for designating both